

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051327

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FOLL REPEAT ASUNCION 888 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA BUENOS
AIRES CARACAS KINGSTON LIMA MEXICO MONTEVIDEO PORT AU PRINCE
06 MAR 75 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0888

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, XM, PA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN MINISTER DISCUSSES SELA WITH GOP

REF: MEXICO 1735

1. MEXICAN SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY, FRANCISCO
JAVIER ALEJO LOPEZ, ARRIVED IN ASUNCION MARCH 5 FOR
A VISIT OF A FEW HOURS TO DISCUSS THE MEXICAN/VENEZUELAN
INITIATIVE TO CREATE A NEW LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC
SYSTEM (SELA). THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL WAS RECEIVED BY
FOREIGN MINISTER SAPENA PASTOR BUT WAS UNABLE TO SEE
PRESIDENT STROESSNER WHO WAS UNAVAILABLE. DR. ALEJO
LOPEZ DEPARTED IN THE AFTERNOON FOR BUENOS AIRES AND
RETURNED TO ASUNCION THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MARCH 6,
FOR A BRIEF 8 AM AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER.

2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
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DR. ALEJO LOPEZ TALKED BRIEFLY WITH NEWSMEN. HE

SAID, "PRACTICALLY ALL THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN HAVE RECEIVED THE IDEA (THE CREATION OF SELA) WITH ENTHUSIASM; THEY SUPPORT IT AND AGREE THAT WE SHOULD GO FORWARD". HE SAID FURTHER THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD EXPRESSED HIS "SIMPATIA" CONCERNING THE CREATION OF SELA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM NEWSMEN, THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL STATED THAT SELA "WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE U.S. AND CANADA, BUT HOWEVER WOULD BE A MECHANISM FOR WORK AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA -- AND THAT AMONG THESE ARE ALSO INCLUDED THE NATIONS OF BRITISH ORIGIN IN THE CARIBBEAN." "THESE COUNTRIES WANT TO BE CONSIDERED LATIN AMERICANS", HE SAID.

4. HOWEVER, IN A CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE MEXICAN'S AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER, A SENIOR GOP OFFICIAL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT DR. ALEJO LOPEZ IN RESPONSE TO GOP QUESTIONS HAD STATED THAT SELA WOULD INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES AND THUS WOULD NOT FORM A BLOC AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE AMBASSADOR, THE GOP OFFICIAL INSISTED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROMOTERS OF SELA INTENDED TO INCLUDE THE U.S. WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL WAS DETERMINED TO PRESENT THE BEST POSSIBLE PICTURE OF SELA TO THE GOP AND CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS UNUSUAL EXPLANATION REGARDING THE QUESTION OF U.S. PARTICIPATION TO ASSUAGE THE GOP'S CONCERN OVER JOINING ANY BLOC POSSIBLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S.

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